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**AFGHANISTAN**

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# FACT SHEET

## Reconstruction of the Gardez to Khost Road

### OVERVIEW

The Khost to Gardez route is a strategic and economic importance trade route. Building an improved road will promote economic growth through cross-border trade to businesses and residents along this entire corridor. Residents along the road will be able to reach schools and health facilities with greater ease. More Afghans will be able to attend schools and obtain healthcare due to a better road linking villages, schools, and clinics.

USAID is building an all-weather paved asphalt national highway of approximately 101 kilometers from the city center of Gardez to the edge of the city of Khost in eastern Afghanistan. The project also will repair or replace bridges and drainage structures along this roadway to ensure the integrity of the road year round. The current road condition is a combination of unimproved roadway to partially graveled or paved surfaces. Overloaded trucks and a poorly designed road have caused extensive damage. The road is not well maintained and is often flooded by spring run-off and rainstorms that make the road impassable.

The project is divided into three sections: two sections have been completed and the remaining section, the most challenging in terms of security and geography, is expected to be complete in early 2012. Upon completion, this road will be an extension of the Kabul to Ghazni road, funded by USAID in 2006, and a link to the Ghazni-Gardez National Highway.

### CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Design and construct a two-lane asphalt paved road from Gardez to Khost, built to international highway standards for traffic conditions and drainage, to allow all weather access
- Replace one bridge and 13 causeways, and rehabilitate several hundred other structures, including irrigation culverts, cross drainage structures, low water crossings, stonemasonry retaining walls, and culvert headwalls
- Design and construct up to 50 new culverts and/or causeways to ensure the integrity of the reconstructed road for many years to come

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed 27 kms (section 1 originating in Gardez) and 36 kms (section 3-ending in Khost)